

ENGLISH VALLEYS BRIEFS

Historical Iowa women will be program at EV History Center

Kären Mason, curator of the Iowa Women's Archives in the University of Iowa libraries, will be speaking at the English Valleys History Center in North English at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 28.

Her program is entitled "Women Making History: An Iowa Perspective."

The EV History Center is located at 108 N. Main Street in North English, and all are invited to attend this event at no charge. Donations are accepted.

Bingo is back at Keokuk County Expo

Bingo, a fun activity for the whole family, is back and available every other Wednesday at the Keokuk County Expo, Signourney.

The next bingo night is Wednesday, Feb. 24 starting at 6 p.m. and continuing through about 8:30 p.m., and will have a progressive jackpot game for the winner of bingo if called within a set number of balls. A concessions stand is available.

Future bingo nights are March 9 and 23. Cancellation notices will be broadcast on KBOE radio.

EV School Carnival March 11

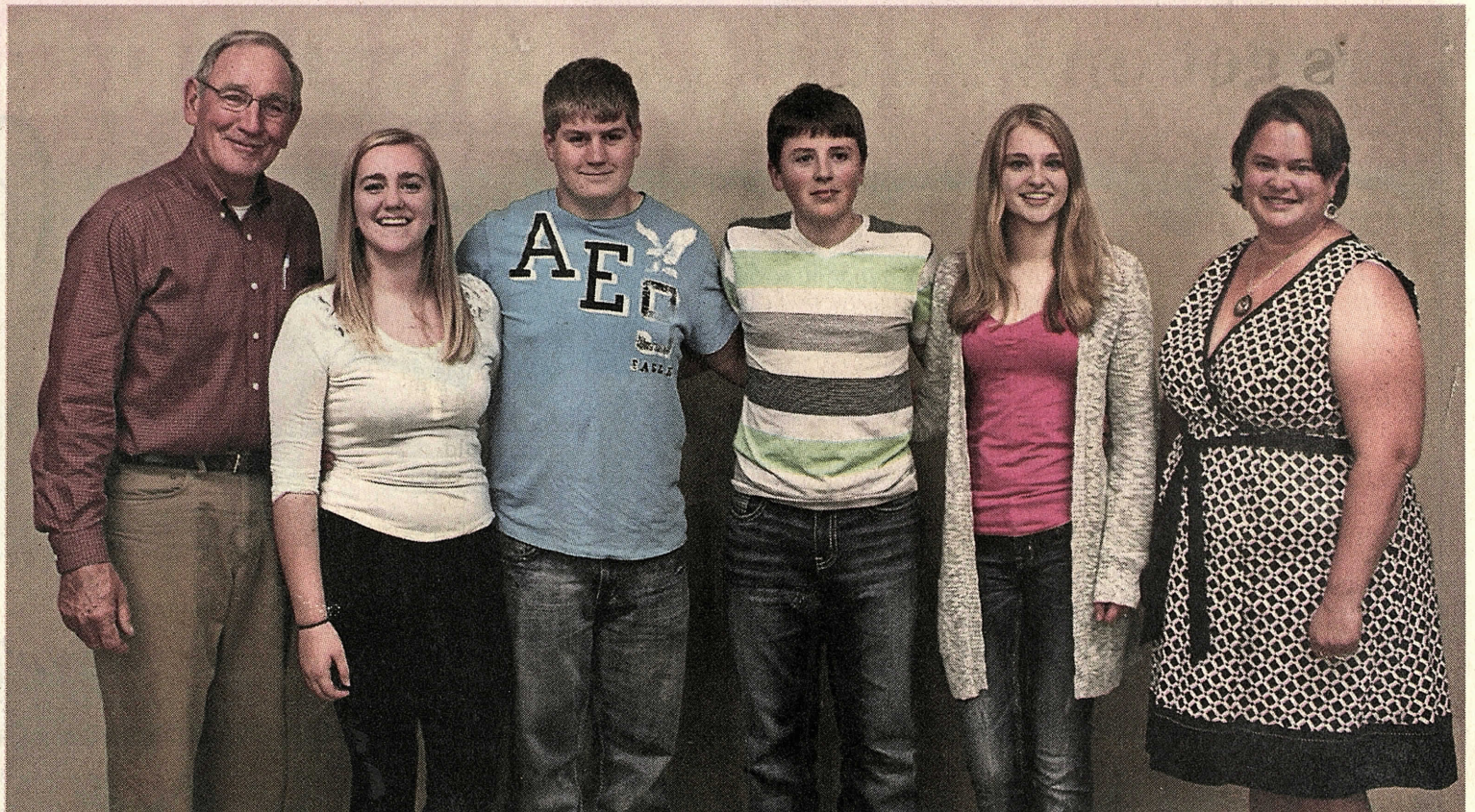
The English Valleys School carnival is from 5-8 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the old gymnasium at English Valleys High School.

Admission is \$1, with four game tickets for \$1. A food stand will also be open.

Groups are interested in signing up for a booth may contact Christy Axmear at axxmear@netins.net.

The After-Prom Party is sponsoring this event.

ENGLISH VALLEYS SCHOOL CALENDAR



COURTESY PHOTO

The Iowa Valley High School Junior Judging Team receives an award for second place at the Quad County Soil Judging Contest from Bob Faber, SWCD commissioner (left), and Kate Timmerman, District Conservationist (right).

Iowa County SWCD presents awards

SPECIAL TO MPC NEWSPAPERS

Each year the Iowa County Soil and Water District (SWCD) Commissioners hold an event to recognize local landowners, producers and conservation professionals for going above and beyond in their roles to protect Iowa's water quality and wildlife habitat.

The District held its annual award banquet on Nov. 5 at the Lake Iowa Nature Center. Following the awards ceremony, Dave Irwin, spoke about his experiences in beekeeping over the last 25 years.

The **New Cooperator Award** was given to Janet McKee and Terri O'Berry of Greene Township. The New Cooperator Award is given to a producer who has shown dedication to conservation through a new partnership with the SWCD. Janet and Terri have planted native grasses, trees and shrubs on their property to improve wildlife habitat and are working to remove undesirable trees from their woodland.

Glen and Dixie Knipfer of English Township were awarded the **Owner/Operator Award** for the conservation work they have done on their row crop acres. They use no-till and cover crops and have installed many grassed waterways and water and sediment control basins across their operation.

The **Landlord/Tenant Award**



COURTESY PHOTO

Regina Leer receives the Delmar Wetjen award from Larry Wetjen, SWCD commissioner.

was presented to Ken Caes and Luke Otte for their work in Hilton Township. The recipients have worked together to install a variety of conservation practices including water and sediment control basins and grassed waterways and they use both no-till and cover crops to protect the soil from erosion.

Bruce and Cindy Ballard of Marengo won the **Livestock Management Award**. The Ballards have a cow/calf operation and have installed many conser-



COURTESY PHOTO

Terri O'Berry (right) receives the New Cooperator Award from Bob Faber, SWCD Commissioner.

vation practices to protect their soil from erosion. As partners of the Price Creek Watershed Project, they have built a pond, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways and more to improve water quality in Price Creek.

Larry Wetjen of Hilton Township won the **Wildlife and Forestry Management Award**. He was chosen for his outstanding native grass and wildflower plantings and his contribution toward putting conservation on

the ground in Iowa County. Wetjen assists other landowners across the county with installing native grasses, burning their prairie plantings and much more. He is a long-time Pheasants Forever supporter and serves on the Iowa County Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

The **Price Creek Watershed Cooperator of the Year Award** was presented to Travis and Linda Schulte of Lenox Township. The Schulte's are working to renovate a large pasture and install a grazing management system that will benefit Price Creek. They rotationally graze a cow-calf herd and have hosted several meetings and field days on their farm this year.

The **Delmar Wetjen Award**, an annual award presented by the Wetjen family in honor of their father, was awarded to Regina Leer. Leer worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for more than 25 years as a Conservation Technician. Her impact on conservation can be seen on many farms across the county.

In addition to the annual SWCD Awards, the Iowa Valley High School FFA Junior Soil Judging Team received an award for their second place finish at the Quad County Soil Judging Contest in September. Team members were: Elizabeth Jensen, Conner Knapp, Gabe Ritter and Alicia Russ.